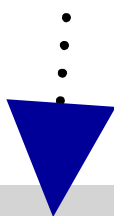


STATEWIDE HOMELESS SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN WICHITA

Participants in the 2002 Statewide Homeless Summit to be held November 14 in Wichita will tackle the challenges faced by the homeless population in Kansas and search for ways to end homelessness. The Summit is organized by the Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition and sponsored by the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing, the City of Wichita, the Kansas Department of Education, and the Shawnee County Homeless Task Force.

Invited speakers include Phillip Mangano, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness; Andrea White of the Center for Urban Community Services in New York; and Kansas Lt. Governor Gary Sherrer. Wichita Vice-Mayor Bob Mertz will officially welcome the speakers to the City of Wichita. Among the topics to be addressed are: the changing face of homelessness, caring for the homeless in urban and rural areas, and effective employment strategies for homeless people.



Internet Users NOTE!

"Around the House" is now online! Find it at www.wichitagov.org/housing; scroll down and click on the "Around the House" link.

If you prefer to receive "Around the House" via email, please email wynn_m@ci.wichita.ks.us and request to be added to the mailing list. (Adobe® Reader is required to view.)

COMMUNITY RECEPTION

November 13, 2002
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Wichita Boathouse
335 W. Lewis

Participants may pre-register for the conference at the reception.

CONFERENCE/INFORMATION FAIR

November 14, 2002
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Century II Convention Center
225 W. Douglas

There is no charge to attend the summit. This includes the reception, continental breakfast, materials, workshops, and breaks. Lunch will be served at The Lord's Diner in Wichita, where donations for lunch are welcome.

Pre-registration is encouraged for the conference and other events. Call the Kansas Department of Commerce & Housing (KDOC&H) at (785) 296-7236, e-mail housing@kansascommerce.com, or TTY (Hearing Impaired) at (785) 296-3487. Anyone in need of special accommodations is asked to contact the KDOC&H at least five business days in advance of the summit.

The KDOC&H is the state's lead economic development organization, responsible for ensuring economic opportunity for Kansans.



A Day at Exploration Place

Drug Elimination and Public Safety Awareness Fair

Over two hundred public housing residents enjoyed a day of food, fun, education, and exploration at one of Wichita's most popular tourist attractions! Door prizes were awarded with the grand prize winner **Jeresia Williams** taking home a one-year family membership to the YMCA of Wichita! *Congratulations to all of our winners!*

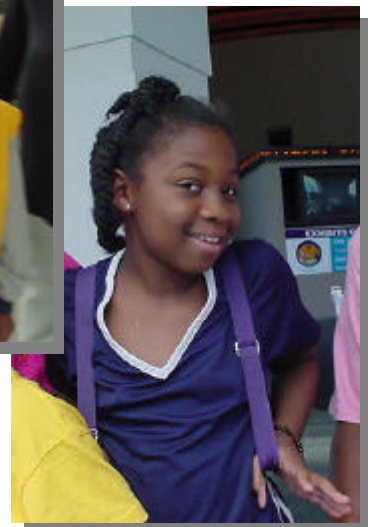
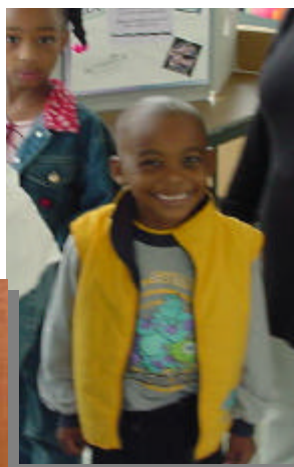
Special thanks to the Wichita Police Department (WPD), JIAC, Step Stone, and other area agencies who set up information booths promoting drug elimination and public safety awareness.



Grand Prize Winner Jeresia Williams and Family



Ident-a-Kid Station



Fall Weather Reminders



With the change of seasons, please remember to **disconnect all of your garden hoses** from your outside water hydrants. Leaving the hoses connected during the winter months will result in broken water pipes and damage to the apartment or house and your personal property. The cost to repair plumbing due to a frozen hose hydrant will normally be charged to a tenant.

Foundation vents are usually located on the outside of your house or apartment, on the foundation at the bottom of the exterior walls. **These vents should be in the closed position for the winter months.** If you haven't already done so, please slide the vents to the closed position. This will prevent cold air from circulating under your floors and raising your heating bills. Some houses with basements may not have these vents.

This is also a good time for you to **test your smoke detector** in your rental unit by depressing the test button and listening for the warning signal to sound. If you don't believe that the detector is operational,

New Public Housing Division Employees

Housing Services would like to welcome the following new employees to our Public Housing staff!

Joseph Candate began on 8-19-02 as a Housing Maintenance Worker. Joe transferred from the Water Department.

Dennis Elbert joined us on 8-20-02 as a Housing Maintenance Worker.

Archie Burgin transferred from the Water Department on 9-30-02 as a Housing Maintenance Worker.

New Improvements at Rosa Gragg



Through the joint efforts of residents at the Rosa Gragg Apartment Complex and Public Housing's Modernization and Property Management Staff, the gazebo and courtyard project was completed in September!

For years the residents of the 32-unit complex requested a covered outdoor area to further interaction between the elderly residents. Through meetings with residents a plan was developed for the construction of a new 24-foot diameter gazebo with four raised garden beds to be used by the residents for flowers and/or vegetables.

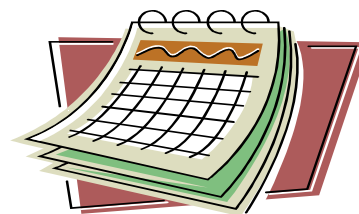
The gazebo area in the center of the complex will be equipped with a new park bench and picnic table.

Annual Landlord Meeting

The Housing Services Department is hosting our **Annual Landlords Training Session** Friday, November 22, 2002, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Eagle Ballroom, Salon E, Main Level.

The purpose of the Annual Landlord's meeting is to provide information on Section 8 procedures. Topics to be covered include :

- ✓ Fair Housing
- ✓ The Housing Choice Voucher Contract
- ✓ Why we need a copy of your Lease Agreement
- ✓ Lead Based Paint
- ✓ Screening a prospective tenant
- ✓ Reasonable Rents
- ✓ Completing a Request For Tenancy Approval



Mark your calendars now!

In addition, you will receive an updated Landlord training packet with valuable information that will be helpful when you are considering a prospective client for your rental unit(s).

If you are interested in attending this training, please pre-register, as space is limited. To ensure that we have materials available for you, it will be necessary for you to contact **Michelle Turner at 316/268-4683** with the number of person(s) attending and their full names no later than November 18, 2002. You may also fax Michelle at (316) 337-9103.

Section 8 Waitlist

The Wichita Housing Services Department closed the waitlist for non-preference Section 8 housing applications on Friday, September 20, 2002. The waitlist will remain open for applicants with **local preferences** that are accompanied with a referral from an approved referral organization. The number of vouchers issued based on preferences are limited annually; however all applicants are on the general waitlist and may receive a voucher even if preference numbers are already attained. Applications *will only be accepted by the Section 8 office*, located at 307 Riverview (268-4683).



The approved local preferences are:

- ✓ Individuals or families displaced by government action or whose dwelling has been extensively damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster declared or otherwise formally recognized pursuant to Federal disaster relief laws.
 - ✓ Applicants who are victims of domestic violence.
 - ✓ Applicants who are homeless.
 - ✓ Applicants with an adult family member enrolled in an education or employment training program or other upward mobility program.
 - ✓ Households that meet Family Unification Program guidelines, limited to the number of FUP vouchers awarded to the Wichita Housing Authority by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
 - ✓ Households that meet Mainstream Program guidelines, limited to the number of Mainstream Program vouchers awarded to the Wichita Housing Authority by the Department of Housing and Urban Development.
-

Investment Property Owners Can Receive REHAB \$\$\$ISTANCE

If you own rental property located within one of the five Local Investment Areas of the City of Wichita then this program is for you!

A *qualified* investment property owner may borrow up to 75% of the cost of the rehabilitation, not to exceed \$20,000, for a single family dwelling or \$15,000 per unit, not to exceed a maximum of \$45,000 for a multi-family building containing seven or less residential units.

Contact Neighborhood Improvement Services at 268-4313 and ask about the *Rental Housing Low Interest Revolving Loan Program* or come to the Housing Services office at 332 North River-view and pick up an application.



The Family Self Sufficiency Program Coordinators, Vallery Fields and Diane Boyd are pleased to announce that the program has reached the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) goal of 177 participants!

Due to the limited number of participants that can be enrolled, a waiting list has been established; as participants graduate or leave the program, names will be taken from the waiting list to fill the vacancies.

In January of 2003, the Program Coordinators will begin holding monthly support group meetings for all FSS participants. Various community agencies, speakers, and past FSS participants will be utilized during these meetings.

New Section 8 Employee

Housing Services would like to welcome the following new employee to our Section 8 staff!

Gwynn LaPreze joined the Section 8 staff on Tuesday, October 15, as Clerk I, in the front desk area. She brings to the department many years experience in varied office duties and strong organizational and communication skills.

Home Maintenance & Housekeeping Classes

Come hear Denise Dias provide a one-hour, informational session covering topics like cleaning house on a tight budget, reducing clutter in the home, laundry tips, time management, record keeping, sharing the household responsibilities . . . *and many more!*

<u>November 18 (Monday)</u>	<u>6:00 p.m.</u>	<u>at the</u>	<u>Atwater Neighborhood City Hall</u>
<u>November 20 (Wednesday)</u>	<u>2:00 p.m.</u>	<u>at the</u>	<u>Colvin Neighborhood City Hall</u>
<u>December 17 (Tuesday)</u>	<u>2:00 p.m.</u>	<u>at the</u>	<u>Stanley/Aley Neighborhood City Hall</u>

To attend any one of these FREE classes, give us a call at 268-4688. Please leave your name, address and phone number.

Around The House

Wichita Housing Services Department

332 N. Riverview

Wichita, Kansas 67203

Published by:
City of Wichita Housing Services
316/268-4688
www.wichita.gov/housing

Editor:
Maryann Wynn

Contributors:
Mo Bui
Tom Byler
Vallery Fields
Michael Hollimon
Roy Johnson
Gail Lotson
Michele Turner
Maryann Wynn



A Fond Farewell

The Housing Department regretfully announces that our “Around the House” newsletter developer, Carolyn “Sue” Alter, passed away Saturday, September 28, 2002. Our department has benefited from Sue’s contributions to the newsletter for almost two years and her skills and input will be sorely missed. She will also be missed by many family, friends, neighbors and co-workers. If you would like to remember Sue in some way, her family suggests that memorials may be directed to American Lung Association of Kansas, 4300 Drury Lane, P.O. Box 4426, Topeka, KS, 66604 in Sue’s memory.
